

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00
DHA-02 ORM-02 HEW-06 MED-03 AGRE-00 AID-05 ABF-01
OMB-01 TRSE-00 /061 W
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FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3189

INFO ALL EC CAPITALS 3227

AMEMBASSY TANANARIVE

USMISSION GENEVA

UNCLAS BRUSSELS 02171

TANANARIVE PLEASE PASS COMOROS

DEPT. PASS AID

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS:EAID,MA,CN EEC,SWEL

SUBJECT: EC COMMISSION EMERGENCY AID PLANS FOR COMOROS ISLANDS

REF: 76 EC BRUSSELS 12753

1.COMMISSION EMERGENCY AID OFFICIALS RECENTLY VISITED THE
COMOROS TO ASSESS THE SITUATION OF SOME 20,000 REFUGEES WHO
HAVE BEEN FORCED OUT OF MADAGASCAR.THESE REFUGEES ARE
VIRTUALLY DESTITUTE;GOVERNMENTAL RESOURCES ARE MEAGER AND
THE ISLAND FOOD STOCKS ARE RAPIDLY DWINDLING.IN ADDITION
TO ITS RECENT FOOD AID COMMITMENTS (SEE REFTEL), THE EC
COMMISSION PLANS TO PROVIDE 200,000 UNITS OF ACCOUNT
(U.A., DOLS 335,000) OF EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE TO MEET REFUGEE
TRANSPORTATION AND INITIAL SETTLEMENT COSTS.IT ALSO PLANS
TO REQUEST MEMBER STATE APPROVAL OF ONE MILLION U.A.
OF ASSISTANCE FROM THE EUROPEAN DEVELOPMENT FUND FOR
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THE PURCHASE OF MEDICINES,HOSPITAL SUPPLIES AND
CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS.

2.COMMISSION OFFICIALS INDICATE THAT THE COMOROS
HAVE ONLY ONE MONTH OF FOODSTOCKS AND HAVE VIRTUALLY
RUN OUT OF FUNDS -- CIVIL SERVANTS,FOR EXAMPLE,HAVE
NOT BEEN PAID FOR PAST TWO MONTHS. DESPITE THESE

DIFFICULTIES,ANOTHER 10-20,000 REFUGEES ARE LIKELY TO ARRIVE.

3.THESE OFFICIALS ESTIMATE THAT REFUGEE COSTS WILL REACH ABOUT 17 MILLION U.A.,BROKEN DOWN AS FOLLOWS IN MILLION U.A.: TRANSPORT , 0.7 IMMEDIATE RELIEF, 0.5 FOOD NEEDS, 1.6 MEDICINES AND HEALTH CARE, 2.2 TRAINING, 1.7 AND CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS, 10.3.
(MISSION IS SENDING COMPLETE REPORT TO STATE/EUR/RPE-MCLEAN AND COMOROS,VIA TANANARIVE.)

4. OFFICIALS HAVE ESTIMATED COMOROS ADDITIONAL FOOD NEEDS OVER NEXT SIX MONTHS AS FOLLOWS: RICE, 3,600 MT SUGAR, 540 MT SALT, 108 MT; AND FLOUR 2,160 MT.
EC WILL TRY TO MEET PART OF RICE NEEDS.IT IS LOOKING HOWEVER,FOR OTHER FOOD AID SOURCES.

5.COMMISSION OFFICIALS ADD THAT AFTER RECENT COUP,NEW COMOROS REGIME HAS NOT DECIDED UPON ITS INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL ORIENTATION.COMMISSION OFFICIALS BELIEVE THE NEW GOVERNMENT IS LIKELY TO TAKE A WESTERN POLITICAL ORIENTATION.THEY EXPRESS THE HOPE THAT OTHER AID DONORS WILL CONSIDER POSSIBLE URGENT EMERGENCY AID TO THE COMOROS.

6. ACTION REQUESTED: WE WOULD APPRECIATE LEARNING WHETHER WASHINGTON IS CONSIDERING POSSIBLE EMERGENCY AID TO THE COMOROS.
HINTON

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Message Attributes

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